

# The Atlantic Messenger.

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## THE ATLANTIC UNION AND OTHER THINGS.

The Atlantic Union convened with the church at Beaufort Friday before the fifth Sunday in May. Beaufort is one of those old charming towns of our State where a person lingers long before he can say "good-bye,"—and especially is this true of Beaufort. Beaufort is situated on a little cape almost surrounded by water. The large and beautiful shade trees and the breeze from the ocean make a man feel like he is in the land of the lotus eaters. Let what come that may, he is happy and contented. Duty may call him away, but he leaves his heart and memory behind. The writer has often wondered why the wandering Beaufortites never forget to tell strangers that they once lived in Beaufort and praise her in the highest; but now it is all plain to him, and he almost wishes he had been born in a land of so much ease and comfort.

The Baptists of Beaufort are not very numerous, but a nobler band cannot be found within our bounds. Under the wise management and instruction of Pastor Butler the church is coming to the very front, and the day is not far distant when she will set an example of liberality that will put to shame some of our stronger churches. Beaufort entertained the Union grandly.

The Union was a success in every sense of the word. We, of the Atlantic Association, have lost faith in our unions. We do not expect many present. We should be surprised should the brethren come prepared to perform their duties. Can we expect a real live Union under such circumstances? If the speakers will make short and spicy speeches, the people will come and hear. Any kind of meetings can be killed by long, dry and thoughtless speeches. Have something to say, say it and quit.

The speeches at our last Union were good, and but few too long. The next time the meeting is held at Beaufort the townspeople will attend better. They will expect something.

Nearly all the pastors were present and took part in the discussions. Not as many "lay brethren" were present as might and ought to have been.

The Baptists of Eastern Carolina do not want to take this great country for Christ and the Baptists. If we do we have a poor way of showing it. We do not put any life in any of our gatherings. We are lifeless at church, we do no personal work, while souls are dying and going to hell on every hand. Are we true watchmen upon the walls?

The writer of these notes was born among the hills of the West, and from the top of a thousand

hills he has sent forth his voice to be returned by some higher elevation. Over many a hill he has chased the billy goat, to halt from his pursuit far from home in a lonely valley between two almost mountains. In these valleys a thousand songsters were rending the air with their melodies; the squirrels were "chirping" from the majestic oaks that adorn the hillsides; the wild turkey was not lonely in these regions; the quail was heard on every hand as he rended the air with his "bob-white," while his mate, with a voice of love, would answer him from her hiding place. These were days of joy and happiness, and to his child heart it was a land of paradise. Now he is older and his horizon has broadened and he is now able to compare and judge, and his judgment is, that there is no place in all the world like Eastern Carolina. These eyes of his have viewed the plains of Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas, the valley of the Father of Waters, the coal and iron fields of Tennessee and Alabama, but nowhere has he found a land so charming or inviting or promising as Eastern Carolina. The time will soon come when it will dawn upon our people that God has placed them in the Eden of America, which is the Eden of the world, and they will awaken from their slumbers to the realization of the opportunities all around them. Then we may expect the world to be amazed at the progress made.

The religious opportunities are as great as the industrial. A child neglected during the period of development becomes a dwarf, and all the care and nurture cannot destroy the evil done or change the dwarf into a well-developed man. The East has been neglected by we Baptists and the brethren of the West complain because no great work is being done. Seed sowing is the greatest work of the farmer. The harvest can never come unless the seed is sown. Seed sowing must precede the harvest. It is plain that the harvest is coming and there will be a great reaping in due time if we faint not. If anything was impressed upon the minds of the brethren at the Union it was that God's hand is plainly seen in the work of the brethren. Let us bestir ourselves and hasten the reaping.

The next Union meets with the church of Davis' Shore. They will be greatly disappointed if all the pastors and many of the brethren are not present. X.

## ATLANTIC INSTITUTE COMMENCEMENT.

DEAR BROTHER DAVIS:—It is presumed that the readers of THE MESSENGER are interested in the career of Atlantic Institute. I am glad that I can speak encourag-

ingly of our school work. The Association is to be congratulated because of the progress that has been made. We closed the second year on the 5th, 6th and 7th of May. Dr. C. S. Blackwell, of Norfolk, Va., preached the sermon, and Mr. E. Hilliard, of Scotland Neck, N. C., delivered the address. Both of these efforts were up to the high-water mark. I shall not do the gentlemen the injustice of attempting a synopsis of what they said. The pupils of the school acquitted themselves well, and, according to the general verdict of those who attended, our closing exercises were a complete success.

We enrolled 145 pupils, an increase of more than eighty per cent. over the enrollment of last year. The school has a firmer hold upon the community than ever before, and we expect the enrollment next year to exceed 200. Our catalogue is now in the hands of the printer and will be ready for distribution by the time this is being read. If the reader of this has a son or daughter to educate, drop me a card and I will take pleasure in mailing a copy of the catalogue to the address given. Don't defer writing—you might forget it—write at once.

Perhaps I should say in this connection that I have resigned my church in order to give my full time to Atlantic Institute. I did this not because I do not love the pastorate, but because I have realized the great importance of our school enterprise, and because the trustees urged upon me the necessity of my remaining at the head of the Institute as its Principal. I have thought that for the present I could perform no higher service than that of guiding in the affairs of Atlantic Institute.

We have reached the position we now occupy not without great effort and many sacrifices. We must not be satisfied with present attainments. Not while ignorance stalks about robbing our youth of the most there is in life can we rest upon our oars. May we not hope to have the sympathy and co-operation of every Baptist in the Association?

A. W. SETZER.

## DIAZ CASE.

At a meeting of the Home Mission Board on May 29, a resolution was adopted inviting Dr. T. T. Eaton, President of the Kentucky General Association, Dr. R. H. Marsh, President of the North Carolina Convention, and Mr. E. W. Stephens, President of the Missouri General Association, to unite with a committee selected from the Home Mission Board, consisting of Judge George Hillier, Dr. W. W. Landrum and Dr. E. L. Connally, who are requested to meet on the 12th day of July

next, and examine all the data in regard to our work in Havana, Cuba, and make publication as full as possible through our denominational press.

It was also ordered by the Board that Dr. A. J. Diaz be notified of the meeting of the committee and invited to be present.

F. C. McCONNELL,  
Corresponding Secretary.

## MISSIONARY INSTITUTES.

DEAR BRO. DAVIS:—I promised to give you something about our Missionary Institutes, but as I study about it I cannot think of anything to give more than a news note.

Bro. Davis was with me at Falling Creek on second Sunday in May and on Saturday before. On Monday night after second Sunday he was with us at the Second Church here. On Tuesday, day and night, we were at Mt. Nelson. These meetings were well attended, and we hope the instructions and information given will be of lasting good. It would do all of our churches good if we had more meetings of this kind. I believe it is the duty of our stronger pastors to give some time to this kind of work each year.

I have just returned from the Union meeting at Ayden. The meeting was very good, but not attended as well as it might have been by delegates. I am

Yours truly,  
J. B. JACKSON.  
Goldsboro, N. C.

## A LETTER FROM BROTHER TAYLOR.

DEAR BRO. DAVIS:—I am just home from the Union at Beaufort, which, I believe, everyone enjoyed and was partially a success. Bro. J. E. King's sermon on Sunday night was of interest and profit. "Christ is all, and in all," was his text. The Union on the whole was of a high order.

Brothers, these Unions could be made of great usefulness to our work in the Atlantic Association if we could get our laymen to attend and take part. Until we get them to feel it is their Union, and their duty to go, the Unions will not do the cause of Christ the proposed good.

I believe it is against our Unions for the strongest men to leave before the Union closes. If Sunday is a part of the Union, they ought to stay and impart their strength to us who are weak. If Sunday is not a part of the Union, then we can all go home Saturday.

I believe the laymen in the Church feel this way; that they haven't any special business in going, because the preachers will do all the speaking and all the work. Why do we have a clerk, when his minutes are thrown away and never read? Let the Union authorize the clerk to pur-

chase a book and file it in files therein. Here is a standing duty for some layman. It is not a preacher's business, I don't believe, to act either as clerk or moderator so long as we have laymen to do this work.

I believe lay members ought to be put on to open the discussion of every topic before the body.

The word Union in our term means the bringing together of both weak and strong, learned and unlearned. The strong are to help the weak to be stronger. The learned are to help the unlearned to be wiser. Now if we fail to get our weak churches represented, and only a few of our preachers go, and three or four laymen, it has failed to be a true Union as proposed by the term Atlantic Union, and the money we spend in traveling had better be given to the Lord and we stay at home.

Brothers, if we are going to have a Union, why not have some system about it? Let every church send to the Union a letter stating how it is getting along spiritually and how progressing. Then if it be so that her appointed representative cannot go, her letter will; and let these letters be read before the Union. This will not only put the laymen to work at home, but in the Union.

I believe if this or some other such plan was adopted our Unions would take on new life and become a power in the Association, while as it is I can see but little good they are doing. Bro. Rich spoke my sentiments when he said "if we wanted to make the Unions helpful we must not consider time or convenience."

The next Union goes to Davis' Shore. I want to see a large gathering from all over the Association. Go every one who can.

Yours in Christ,  
J. R. TAYLOR.

## Do Saloons Help a Town?

At a mass meeting of the citizens of Lebanon, Tenn., recently, the question of the financial effect of removing the saloons was carefully canvassed. At the time, Hon. Robinson McMillan, a prominent lawyer, declared that he had interviewed the merchants of the town, and that all classes of business reported an increase in trade of from 25 to 47 1-2 per cent. since the saloons were abolished. Real estate has gained in value 20 per cent., and fifty more new houses are being built this year. The mayor had been seen, and had said that the cases tried before him had only been one-third as many as before the closing of the saloons. Facts are stubborn things, as the saloonist, who declares that liquor selling makes trade for towns, is likely to discover.

The Pernambuco, Brazil, Baptist church has received 102 members for baptism during the past year. This Church is only a few years old, but God is wonderfully blessing Bro. Solomon L. Ginsburg's labors in this large city.